

## Thousands of organic waste bins in Hanover with optional organic filter lid

Matthias Deppe is an old hand in the business at Abfallwirtschaft Region Hannover (aha). When the organic waste bin was introduced nationwide in the mid-nineties, "I went from door to door with the organic filter lid under my arm," recalls Deppe of his time as a young field worker. My job was to familiarise citizens with the then new organic waste bin in the state capital. "I think it's important to offer citizens this service," says Deppe. When Hanoverians feared hordes of maggots and foul odours in summer, the bio-filter lid was able to convince them and allay their fears - "we took the citizens' fears very seriously as a waste disposal company". Back then, the bio-filter lid was Deppe's trump card as a field service consultant - especially for allergy sufferers. "I was often asked about the fungal spores in the organic waste bin," recalls Deppe. He was also able to reassure allergy sufferers with the bio-filter lid: due to the humid climate in the bin, caused by the tight-fitting lid, the fungal spores are largely bound to the organic waste and cannot be inhaled every time the lid is opened. More than 20 years after the introduction of the organic waste bin, Deppe is now responsible for waste management.

and recyclables collection in the city. Thousands of organic waste bins are now fitted with a biofilter lid at the customer's request.



Matthias Deppe (left) and Mario Klöpfer from Abfallwirtschaft Region Hannover (aha) show an organic waste bin with a filter lid from the stock. Thousands of organic waste bins in Hanover have already been fitted with the biofilter lid at the request of customers.

**Waste Management Schleswig-Flensburg (ASF) summarizes** how the bio-filter cover works: "The bio-filter material contains micro-organisms that can also be found in forest soil. The microorganisms break down pollutants and odours into harmless carbon dioxide and water. Odours are neutralised. This pleases the human nose and flies are no longer attracted. The plastic seal closes the filter lid tightly so that flies can no longer enter the bin. Where there are no flies, there can be no maggots." The bio-filter lid service is firmly established in Hanover as well as at the ASF. In Hanover, customers are asked for a bio-filter lid when they order their organic waste bin. "The bio-filter lid, including a filter change every two years by our container service, costs residents just €1.00 a month more than the 'normal' organic waste bin," says Mario Klöpfer from **aha Hannover**. For the two waste experts Deppe and Klöpfer, the matter is clear: the organic filter lid can increase the acceptance of the organic waste bin. For the citizens in the far north, the installation costs

service for the bio-filter cover costs €15.00 once and a fee of €1.20 per month is then due. The filter change, which is due every two years, is handled simply: the filter material is automatically sent to citizens by post. The old filter material can be disposed of as biomass in the organic waste bin.

"As a waste management company, you have to offer solutions," Matthias Fricke, Managing Director of **ALBA Braunschweig GmbH**, is convinced. If citizens are deterred from filling their organic waste bins correctly for fear of maggots and odours, the bio-filter lid can help and will soon do so in Braunschweig too.

At the beginning of this spring, the bio-filter lid will be actively promoted as an option and solution for the hygienic collection of organic waste. Food waste should not be placed in the organic waste bin wrapped in plastic bags for reasons of hygiene. Cities such as Berlin, Gelsenkirchen, Kiel, Magdeburg, Münster or Chemnitz and many other municipalities and districts already offer their citizens this service.

"Bio filter cover".

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